



# **NSF, Minority-Serving Institutions, and Basic Research in the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences**

Laura Namy ([LNAMY@nsf.gov](mailto:LNAMY@nsf.gov))

Lee Walker ([LWALKER@nsf.gov](mailto:LWALKER@nsf.gov))

Kenyatta Johnson ([KENJOHNS@nsf.gov](mailto:KENJOHNS@nsf.gov))

# Introduction to SBE

# SBE's Mission



- To promote the understanding of people and their lives by supporting research that reveals basic facets of human behavior
- To encourage research that addresses important societal questions and problems

***\*\*Basic\*\**** Science

# Three Divisions within SBE

- Behavioral & Cognitive Sciences (BCS)
- Social & Economic Sciences (SES)
- National Center for Science & Engineering Statistics (NCSES)

# Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences (BCS)



- Archaeology and Archaeometry
- Biological Anthropology
- Cultural Anthropology
- Cognitive Neuroscience
- Developmental and Learning Sciences
- Documenting Endangered Languages
- Geography and Spatial Sciences
- Linguistics
- Perception, Action, & Cognition
- Social Psychology

# Social and Economic Sciences (SES)



- Decision Risk and Management Sciences
- Economics
- Law and Social Sciences
- Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics
- Political Science
- Science of Organizations
- Science, Technology, and Society
- Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace
- Sociology

# SBE-Wide Programs and Solicitations

- Science of Learning
- Science of Science and Innovation Policy
- Resource Implementation for Data Intensive Research in SBE (RIDIR)
- Science of Broadening Participation

# Some Relevant Cross-Directorate Initiatives

- Integrative Strategies for Understanding Neural and Cognitive Systems
- Cyberlearning and Future Learning Technologies
- Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Water, and Energy
- Dynamics of Coupled Natural and Human Systems
- INCLUDES
- ADVANCE
- HBCU-UP



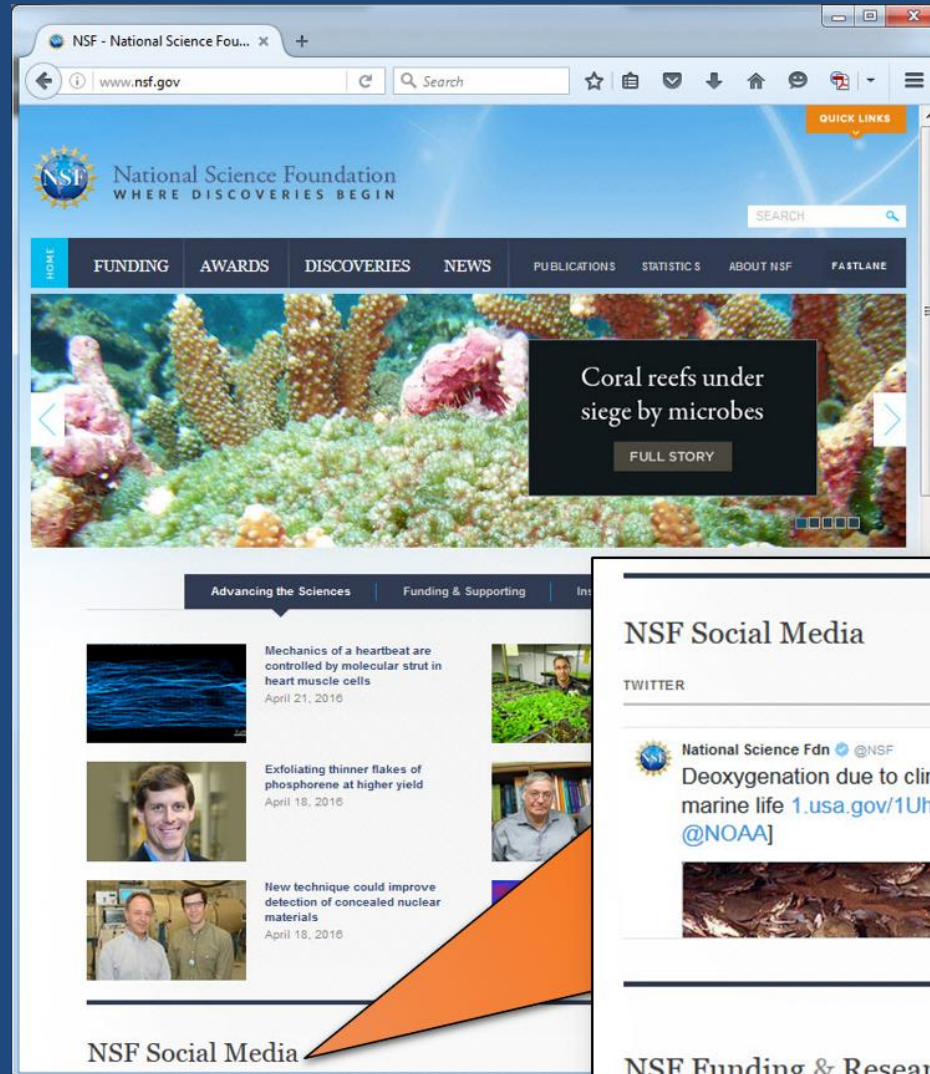
# Stay in the Loop

- Dear Colleague Letters
- Special Competitions and Investment Areas
- NSF Website has links to NSF Social Media



# NSF Website

- Visit the [NSF website at http://www.nsf.gov](http://www.nsf.gov)
- Follow us on Social Media
  - Social Media section on the NSF homepage



## NSF Social Media

TWITTER

FOLLOW

National Science Fdn @NSF

Deoxygenation due to climate change threatens marine life [1.usa.gov/1Uh7U5q](http://1.usa.gov/1Uh7U5q) [photo credit: @NOAA]

FOLLOW US



[See all NSF social media](#)

NSF Funding & Research Community

# Kinds of proposals (mechanisms)

- Standard research grants
- Research at Undergraduate Institutions (RUI) awards
- CAREER awards
- High risk awards (EAGER, RAPID)
- Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement grants\*
- Training programs
  - Graduate Research Fellowships
  - Post-doctoral Fellowships
  - Research Experiences for Undergraduates
- Workshops
- Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Awards
- Research Coordination Networks (RCNs)



# Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER)

- Pre-tenure but tenure-track (or equivalent) faculty
- Integration of research and education
- Single investigator proposal – No Co-PIs
- Minimum \$400,000 over 5 years\*
- Maximum of three submissions (one per year)
- Deadline: mid to late July

# **Anatomy of a Proposal**

# Proposal Components

- Cover Page
- Project Summary (1 page)
- Table of Contents (auto-generated)
- Project Description (15 pages)
- References Cited
- Biographical Sketches (for all senior personnel)
- Budget
- Current and Pending Support
- Facilities, Equipment, and Other Resources
- Post-doctoral mentoring plan (if applicable)
- Data management plan
- Supplementary Documentation (if applicable – no letters of support)



# Cover Sheet

- Program Announcement Number
- Auto Assigned NSF Proposal Number
- NSF Organization for Consideration
- Performing Institution
- Project Title
- Requested Amount
- PI Information

COVER SHEET FOR PROPOSAL TO THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION					
PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT/SOLICITATION NO. CLOSING DATE: not in response to a program announcement solicited as order NSF 14-1					FOR NSF USE ONLY
NSF 14-1					NSF PROPOSAL NUMBER <b>1509402</b>
FOR CONSIDERATION BY NSF ORGANIZATION UNIT(S) (provide the most specific unit known, i.e. program, division, etc.)					
PHY - ASTROPHYSICS & COSMOLOGY THEOR					
DATE RECEIVED	NUMBER OF COPIES	DIVISION ASSIGNED	FUND CODE	DUNS# (State Universal Numbering System)	FILE LOCATION
11/03/2014	1	03010000 PHY	1288	084184116521	11/03/2014 10:54pm
EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN) OR TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (TIN)		SHOW PREVIOUS AWARD NO. IF THIS IS <input type="checkbox"/> A RENEWAL <input type="checkbox"/> AN ACCOMPLISHMENT-BASED RENEWAL		IS THIS PROPOSAL BEING SUBMITTED TO ANOTHER FEDERAL AGENCY? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IF YES, LIST ACRONYM(S)	
NAME OF ORGANIZATION TO WHICH AWARD SHOULD BE MADE NSF			ADDRESS OF AWARDING ORGANIZATION, INCLUDING 5 DIGIT ZIP CODE Arlington, VA 222040000 US		
AWARDEE ORGANIZATION CODE (IF KNOWN) 4102852000					
NAME OF PRIMARY PLACE OF PERFORM			ADDRESS OF PRIMARY PLACE OF PERFORM, INCLUDING 5 DIGIT ZIP CODE		
IS A AWARDING ORGANIZATION (Check All That Apply) (See GPO I.D. For Definitions)					
<input type="checkbox"/> SMALL BUSINESS <input type="checkbox"/> FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION <input type="checkbox"/> MINORITY BUSINESS <input type="checkbox"/> WOMAN-OWNED BUSINESS <input type="checkbox"/> IF THIS IS A PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL, THEN CHECK HERE					
TITLE OF PROPOSED PROJECT International Conference Cosmical Magnetic Fields					
REQUESTED AMOUNT \$ 30,000		PROPOSED DURATION (48 MONTHS) 0 months		REQUESTED STARTING DATE	
SHOW RELATED PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL NO. IF APPLICABLE					
THIS PROPOSAL INCLUDES ANY OF THE ITEMS LISTED BELOW					
<input type="checkbox"/> BEGINNING INVESTIGATOR (BPG I.C. 2) <input type="checkbox"/> DISCLOSURE OF LOBBYING ACTIVITIES (BPG I.C. 1.4) <input type="checkbox"/> PROPRIETARY & PRIVILEGED INFORMATION (BPG I.D. I.C. 1.4) <input type="checkbox"/> HISTORIC PLACES (BPG I.C. 3) <input type="checkbox"/> VERTEBRATE ANIMALS (BPG I.D. 6) IACUC App. Date _____ PHS Animal Welfare Assurance Number _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FUNDING MECHANISM Conference, Symposium, Workshop					
<input type="checkbox"/> HUMAN SUBJECTS (BPG I.D. 7) Human Subjects Assurance Number _____ Exemption Selection _____ at IRB App. Date _____ <input type="checkbox"/> INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES - COUNTRY/COUNTRIES INVOLVED (BPG I.C. 2.0) _____ CO-COLLABORATIVE STATUS Not a collaborative proposal					
PI/DI DEPARTMENT Physics		PI/DI POSTAL ADDRESS 4201 WILSON BLVD ARLINGTON, VA 222040000 United States			
PI/DI FAX NUMBER					
NAMES (TYPED)	High Degree	Yr of Degree	Telephone Number	Email Address	
PI/DI NAME Terry Demo	DSc	1999	703-292-9000	td@nsf.gov	
CO-PI/DI					
CO-PI/DI					
CO-PI/DI					
CO-PI/DI					

# Project Summary (1 page)

- Overview
- Statement of Intellectual Merit
- Statement of Broader Impacts



# Project Description (15 pages)

- What's the question?
- Why it's important to answer it
- How you plan to answer it
- What implications it will have
- Must include a statement of broader impacts and a section addressing result from prior NSF support

# Biosketches

- For all senior personnel
- 2 pages max.
- Professional Preparation
- Appointments (starting with current)
- Publications (10 max: 5 most relevant, 5 other significant papers)
- Synergistic activities (training, outreach, professional service)
- Collaborators and Other Affiliations\*

# Budget

- Size:

- Reasonable for project
- Aligned with typical award size for the program
- Well-justified and not padded
- Consistent with program/solicitation guidelines

- Eligible Costs:

- Personnel (PI, Co-PI, Consultants, Research Staff, Students)
- Equipment
- Travel
- Participant recruitment/compensation
- Supplies and services as needed

Indirect costs are included in overall budget - rate is negotiated between Govt and your institution

# Post-doctoral mentoring plan

- 1 page max. description of how Post-Doc will be mentored
- Research training
- Networking and career counseling
- Training in grant writing, publications and presentations
- Support for development of teaching and mentoring skills
- Training in responsible conduct of research

# Data Management Plans

- What kinds of data, software and other materials will your research generate?
- How will you manage it? (e.g. metadata standards, standards for format, content, migration, etc.)
- How will you give others access to your data, preserving confidentiality, security, intellectual property & other rights/requirements?
- How will you archive data and preserve access?

**\*\*Not “one size fits all”\*\***

# Supplementary Documentation

- RUI documents
- Letters of commitment from collaborating organizations
- Other information that establishes feasibility
- Note: We generally give you the benefit of the doubt
- NO letters of support

# Breaking Down the Review Process

# Proposal Processing



- PI writes and uploads proposal documents to FastLane or Research.gov
- Sponsored Research Office submits proposal on behalf of institution
- Compliance check
- Review of proposal
- Program Director Recommendation
- Division Director Review of Recommendation
- If award, Division of Grants and Agreements vets and issues award notice



# Types of Reviewers

- Ad hoc reviews – Experts on the proposal topic
- Advisory panels – Representing various topic areas in the discipline
- Internal review by NSF Program Directors

**\*\*Panels (and reviewers) are Advisory\*\***

# Official NSF review criteria

- Intellectual Merit:

- Importance of topic
- Qualifications
- Creativity & originality
- Transformative?
- Conception & organization
- Feasibility

- Broader Impacts:

- Training
- Mentoring
- Diversity
- Infrastructure
- Dissemination/Public awareness
- Societal Benefits

# NSF Review structure and content

- Provide a rating: Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair, Poor
- Description of strengths and weaknesses
- Separate analysis of:
  - Intellectual Merit
  - Broader Impacts
  - Any Solicitation – Specific Criteria
- Summary statement of overall assessment

# Co-review

- Submit one proposal for consideration by multiple programs
- Choose programs on cover page, **\*\*top choice first\*\***
- Decision to co-review is at the discretion of the program directors
- Reviews from multiple perspectives
- Both fund, neither fund, one funds

# Secrets to Success

# Talk to a Program Director!



- Get in touch early in the process (and well before the deadline)
- Send an email rather than cold-calling
- Include a one-page summary of the project
- Ask for feedback on how the project fits with program priorities
- Inquire whether there are other programs or initiatives (such as DCLs) that are relevant
- If a proposal is declined, schedule a follow-up chat to get feedback on whether and if so how to revise

# Pitfalls to avoid



- Overlooking key aspects of the program announcement and requirements **\*\*READ CAREFULLY\*\***
- Lacking specificity about method, predictions, analysis plan
- Disconnect between framing/motivation and proposed activity
- Failing to establish feasibility
- Writing exclusively for an expert audience
- Submitting without feedback from colleagues or mentors

# Questions?

Please submit any additional questions to:

*[SBE-MSI-Outreach@nsf.gov](mailto:SBE-MSI-Outreach@nsf.gov)*